

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY BY S/S-O: APSHANKLE:WLT

APPROVED BY S/S-O: APSHANKLE

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P 201909Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 123957 TOSEC 130066

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 2768 ACTION SECSTATE 20 MAY 76
QUOTE

S E C R E T OUVVZAT 2768

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO

SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN MAY 18

1. SUMMARY. KING LOOKED FORWARD TO POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS, AND TO TRIP TO PARIS AND MADRID IN NOVEMBER. ON ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN TENSIONS AND SAHARA, KING STATED THAT GOM WOULD IN NO WAY EMBARRASS ITS FRIENDS WHO SUPPORTED IT IN UNGA LAST YEAR. HE PROMISED US DETAILED OUTLINE OF MOROCCAN STRATEGY AND CONFIDED HE PLANNING TO INVITE WALDHEIM TO MOROCCO IN JUNE FOR A MEETING, APPARENTLY WITH OTHER PARTIES. (IN PRE-AUDIENCE CONVERSATION, ROYAL CABINET DIRECTOR BENSOU DA INDICATED GOM CONSIDERING FURTHER SAHARAN CONSULTATION IN FORM OF NATIONWIDE LOCAL ELECTIONS, INCLUDING IN SAHARA.)

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KING SAID ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AND PARLIAMENT INSTALLED.

ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY TIMING, HE LEFT IMPRESSION THIS IS AN ACTIVE SUBJECT ON HIS AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

2. KING HASSAN RECEIVED ME IN MARRAKECH ON MAY 18 FOR FORTY-MINUTE TETE-A-TETE PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. IN FRIENDLY, RELAXED ATMOSPHERE HE SPOKE WARMLY OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND OF THE EXCELLENT STATE OF US-GOM RELATIONS. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING:

3. SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. KING ASKED ME TO TELL SECRETARY OF HIS EVALUATION OF SPANISH FOMIN AREILZA'S VISIT TO RABAT ON MAY 5-6. AREILZA, WHOM KING CHARACTERIZED AS SENSIBLE AND WISE, HAD TOLD HIM THAT SECRETARY HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO. HASSAN IN TURN NOTED THAT SECRETARY HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERN TO HIM THROUGH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON. KING WISHED SECRETARY TO BE REASSURED THAT SPAIN WANTS TO TURN OVER NEW PAGE IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO, THAT THE AREILZA VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN THIS REGARD, AND THE RELATIONS WILL BE EXCELLENT.

4. HASSAN WENT ON TO OUTLINE CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH AREILZA ON SPANISH INTERNAL SITUATION. (KING'S COMMENTS CLEARLY REFLECT HIS OWN THINKING ON HOW TO GOVERN MOROCCO.) WHEN ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS, KING COMMENTED THAT JUAN CARLOS, IN VIEW OF 40 YEARS OF FRANCO REGIME AND THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF SPANIARDS, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RULE IN THE BRITISH SYTLE. JUAN CARLOS, KING HAD URGED, SHOULD BOTH REIGN AND GOVERN, AND GOVERN WELL. FAILING FIRM LEADERSHIP IN MEETING SPANISH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, HIS CHANCES OF REMAINING ON THRONE WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED, AND SPANISH PEOPLE MIGHT RETURN TO FRANCO-TYPE REGIME OR, EVEN WORSE, MOVE TO LEFT AND THEREFORE CHAOS. ONCE JUAN CARLOS HAD PROVED HIMSELF, A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WITHIN AN ORDERLY POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WOULD IN TIME BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE.

5. CONCERNING PROJECTED STATE VISIT TO SPAIN, HASSAN STATED HE WOULD GO IN NOVEMBER. INASMUCH AS HE HAD MADE
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PREVIOUS COMMITMENT TO VISIT GISCARD D'ESTAING, HE WOULD PROCEED FIRST TO PARIS AND THEN TO MADRID ON SAME TRIP.

6. ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN TENSIONS AND SAHARA. I NOTED THAT EMBASSY HAD REPORTED FULLY AND OBJECTIVELY ON MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY MEMBERS OF GOM ON THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT WASHINGTON THEREFORE FULLY UNDERSTOOD MOROCCAN POSITION. INASMUCH AS MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN TENSIONS AND

SAHARA QUESTION AT UN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE RAISED DURING MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, I REQUESTED ANY GUIDANCE KING COULD GIVE ME. KING ASKED THAT SECRETARY AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS BE ASSURED THAT MOROCCO, WHEN UNGA CAME AROUND, WOULD IN NO WAY EMBARRASS ANY OF ITS FRIENDS WHO VOTED WITH MOROCCO ON SAHARA RESOLUTION LAST YEAR. KING PROMISED THAT WHEN I RETURNED FROM CONSULTATIONS, HE WOULD GIVE ME IN TOTAL CONFIDENCE DOCUMENT DETAILING MOROCCAN STRATEGY POINT BY POINT. BY THE TIME OF UNGA, HE PREDICTED IT WOULD BE ALGERIA'S FRIENDS, NOT MOROCCO'S, WHO WOULD BE EMBARRASSED IF ALGERIA CHOSE TO MAKE SAHARA AN ISSUE. BETWEEN NOW AND THE UNGA, HE FORESAW POSITIVE MOVEMENT TOWARDS A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. HASSAN CONFIDED THAT AS PART OF HIS STRATEGY, HE IS PLANNING TO INVITE SYG WALDHEIM TO MOROCCO IN JUNE FOR A "MEETING". (KING LEFT IMPRESSION OTHER PARTIES WOULD ALSO BE INVITED, BUT CLEARLY DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAILS.) HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT AS A RESULT OF THE AREILZA VISIT, SPAIN WOULD IN DUE COURSE MAKE IT CLEAR TO WALDHEIM THAT IT CONSIDERED MOROCCO HAD FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATION REGARDING SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE SAHARA.

7. (ROYAL CABINET DIRECTOR BENSOUDA, IN PRIVATE TALK JUST PRECEDING AUDIENCE, COMMENTED ON MOROCCAN EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS ALGERIA, FILLING OUT PICTURE SOMEWHAT. HE NOTED GOM, IN TRYING TO GIVE BOUMEDIENE WAY TO SAVE FACE AND TO ENLIST WALDHEIM, WAS REVIEWING QUESTION OF CONSULTATION OF SAHARANS. HE COMMENTED THAT MOROCCO WOULD BE HAVING LOCAL ELECTIONS, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE CONDUCTED IN SAHARA. THIS CONSULTATION WOULD BE DESIGNED TO PERMIT BOUMEDIENE, IF HE SO CHOSE, TO TAKE POSITION THAT SAHARAN POPULATION CONTENTED TO LIVE UNDER PRESENT SITUATION, WHICH WOULD IN TURN ENABLE
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WALDHEIM TO REVERSE HIS NEGATIVE POSITION OF LAST FEBRUARY ON SELF-DETERMINATION IN SAHARA.)

8. ELECTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO MY COMMENT ON HOW HELPFUL ALL TOP OFFICIALS OF MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TO ME AND THEIR EXTREMELY HIGH CALIBER AND TOTAL DEDICATION, KING SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THIS, NOTING HE CHOSE HIS MINISTERS BOTH FOR THEIR QUALITIES AND THEIR FAULTS. MOROCCO WOULD BE HAVING ELECTIONS AND A PARLIAMENT WOULD BE INSTALLED, HE WENT ON, AND WHEN THAT HAPPENED, THE CHOICE OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MADE DIFFERENTLY. "WE WILL RESERVE FOR US THE CHOICE OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, FINANCE, AND INTERIOR". OTHERS WOULD BE APPOINTED IN CONSULTATION WITH PARLIAMENT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES. (HE DID NOT SPECIFY TIMING OF ELECTIONS OR OF SEATING OF

PARLIAMENT, ALTHOUGH PRIMIN TOLD ME MAY 8 THAT GOM LOOKED FORWARD TO HAVING PARLIAMENT IN PLACE BEFORE END OF THE YEAR.)

9. COMMENT: KING'S REMARKS AND THOSE OF MOROCCAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN IN RECENT WEEKS POINT TO SERIOUS GOM MOVEMENT ON SCENARIO AIMING AT ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SAHARA AND AT LEAST LIMITED ACCOMMODATION WITH ALGERIA. IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF FURTHER CONSULTATION OF SAHARANS THROUGH NATIONWIDE LOCAL ELECTIONS REPRESENTS CHANGE OF GOM POSITION FROM EARLIER CONTENTION THAT CONSULTATION ALREADY COMPLETED IN FORM OF FEBRUARY 26 JEMAA SESSION. KEY QUESTION OF COURSE REMAINS ACCEPTABILITY OF SUCH SCENARIO TO ALGERIA, INASMUCH AS OUTCOME OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED TO CHANGE NOTHING WITH RESPECT TO MOROCCAN CONTROL IN SAHARA. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE123957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: APSHANKLE:WLT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760196-0259
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760531/aaaabaue.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN MAY 18
TAGS: PFOR, MO, FR, SP, AG, SS, (HASSAN II)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006